6:Spate N-4 (no date)1954 AWI India AWI Kanada AWI Coorg AWS

and trade have been N/S, or between the interior and the nearest accessible coast, not across the root of the Peninsula.

Structure has been described in Ch. I. We may note briefly the extraordinary maturity of the Peninsular rivers, graded almost to their heads in the Wn Ghats, but cutting through the En Hills or descending precipitously from the high Mysorean plateaus in gorges. The major relief features are usually no more than the flanks of plateaus or of fault-troughs, or residual crests on the heights of land between the main river-basins; but there is a good deal of local diversity, the mesas and buttes of the Deccan Lavas, the fantastic tors and gnarled ridges of the Archaeans.

Climatically the entire area, except for the En Hills, the Wn Ghats, and the rain-shadow of the latter, could be described as Tropical Savannah with monsoonal modification. There is a broad distinction between the NE, with 40 ins. plus and considerable humidity, and the drier (20–40 ins.) and more variable W and S, which in the lee of the Ghats receives less than 20 ins. in places.[1] The boundary between these is a line running roughly along the lower Godavari and produced to the NW. Temperatures practically everywhere range from means of 65–75° F. in January to 85–95° in May; except, of course, where modified by high altitude.

The Western Ghats and Coorg

The astonishing contrast between the scarp and the plateau faces of the Ghats is brought out by Fig. 125: on the one side deep ravines and canyons, on the other flat-topped spurs intersected by mature valleys. The spurs lose height to the E fairly rapidly, becoming mere flat-topped relic ridges on the watersheds, with outlying mesas and buttes; the actual dissected belt, the Ghats proper, is only a few miles wide as a rule; generally 2500–3000 ft high, it reaches 4500 or more in the culminations whence spring the transverse spurs, such as the Tryambak massif at the root of the Balaghat Hills. It is a negative area: in some places, as the Peint forests and the Dangs (S of the Tapti) and behind Ratnagiri and Goa, a tangle of dense jungle, including teak on terraces and valley-floors; elsewhere it carries more open forest with not a little bare rock on the flanks of the more massive lava flows. On spurs E and W are the great hill forts, bases whence the 'mountain rat' Sivaji gradually extended his power over the Konkan and the more open Maharashtra country. Except in the Kanara sub-region already discussed (pp. 617–26), there is little economic activity apart from jungle agriculture, forestry, and the increasingly important hydro-electric development around the Bhor Ghat and Gersoppa. The only places of much importance are the little gap towns and sanatoria behind Bombay (Igatpuri, Lonavla, Khandala; above, 616–17) and Mahabaleshwar (5000), a hill-

[1] For a more detailed analysis see E. Semkins, *The Agricultural Geography of the Deccan Plateau of India* (n.d., ?1926), 13–22.